UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/412
29 May 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 21 May 1997 from the President of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to you (S/1997/394, annex).

My Government shares the view expressed in the letter regarding the positive role of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) in maintaining stability in the Dubrovnik region of Croatia and providing security for the Boka Kotorska region in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The work of UNMOP personnel deserves our commendation. While the presence of UNMOP is welcome, both Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are cognizant of the fact that the UNMOP mandate cannot be endless, and that a permanent security arrangement should be found to satisfy the security needs of both Dubrovnik and Boka Kotorska. The two countries have agreed to pursue such an arrangement through bilateral negotiations, as stated in article 4 of the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/51/351-S/1996/744, annex).

My Government has made several proposals in regard to a possible security arrangement, including a proposal to demilitarize broader areas on both sides of the border. It is now awaiting a response or similar counter-proposal from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. My Government is confident that a proper security arrangement can be found, that is both consistent with international norms and satisfies the basic principle of inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

The Republic of Croatia and the international community have shown an understanding for the security concerns of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in respect of Boka Kotorska. However, my Government believes, and it has the support in relevant Security Council resolutions, that these concerns can only be resolved through arrangements that respect the existing internationally recognized borders. The respect for international borders forms the bedrock of the international community's policy, as the key element for maintaining peace and stability, not only in this part of the world.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan SIMONOVIC
Ambassador
Permanent Representative